

OPINION 1822

Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 and *H. nitens* Michaud, 1831 (currently *Aegopinella nitidula* and *A. nitens*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): specific names conserved, and a neotype designated for *H. nitidula

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; terrestrial snails; *Helix nitidula*; *Helix nitens*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
 - (a) all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 86934 in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, described and figured by Gittenberger (1993), is designated the neotype;
 - (b) the specific name *nitens* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Helix nitens*, and all uses of the name *Helix nitens* prior to the publication of *Helix nitens* Michaud, 1831, are hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) To the entry for *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology is hereby added the endorsement that it is defined by the neotype designated in (1)(a) above.
- (3) The name *nitens* Michaud, 1831, as published in the binomen *Helix nitens* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Forcart (1959), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *nitens* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Helix nitens* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology (a junior objective synonym of the specific name of *Helix nitida* Müller, 1774).

History of Case 2871

An application for the conservation of the specific names of *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 and *H. nitens* Michaud, 1831, and for the designation of a neotype for *H. nitidula*, was received from Prof Edmund Gittenberger (*Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*) on 15 December 1992. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 205–208 (September 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The specific name of *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 was placed on the Official List in Opinion 336 (March 1955). However, the identity of the only syntype still remaining (in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna) was not then considered.

It was noted on the voting paper that support for the application was given by, among others, all the 20 participants at a European non-marine molluscan nomenclature meeting in Heidelberg in 1992 (para. 8 of the application).

It was also noted on the voting paper that Draparnaud lived and died in Montpellier and that Locard (1895) recorded that, following Draparnaud's death in 1804, his mollusc collection was sold in 1820 to the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (para. 2 of the application; see also Dance, 1986, p. 210). However, Jeffreys

(1862, p. 310) wrote: 'After the foregoing part of this volume [*British Conchology*, vol. 1] had been printed, I received a communication of considerable importance as regards the determination of some of the species described by Draparnaud. It consisted of the original types or specimens of that author, from the public museum at Montpellier, and which, through the great kindness of the Director, M. Michaud, I have now had the opportunity of examining and comparing with my own specimens'.

Draparnaud material seen by Jeffreys (1862, p. 310) included three specimens of *Helix nitidula* var. β (identified by Jeffreys as *Zonites purus* and *Z. radiatulus*, both of Alder (1830); paras. 1 and 3 of the application) but no specimens of '*H. nitidula*'.

It is not known on how many specimens Draparnaud (1805) based *H. nitidula* (para. 1 of the application), and the possible existence of Draparnaud original type material additional to that in Vienna delayed voting on the case. Assistance from Dr P. Bouchet (Paris) was sought; he wrote to the Commission Secretariat (March 1995): 'I am afraid that my investigations in Montpellier have not been very fruitful. A colleague of mine, Dr Joel André, is a malacologist working at the university there. We were both aware of 19th century malacological collections (e.g. Paladilhe) in the local university collections, but we had never heard of Draparnaud material still in existence other than in Vienna. There is currently no natural history museum in Montpellier and it is not clear where the material in the 'public museum' referred to by Jeffreys might have ended up. Dr André has been searching in collections of various departments at the University of Montpellier but without success. The material referred to by Jeffreys must be considered lost or, if still in existence, not accessible'.

For practical purposes the existence of Draparnaud specimens in Montpellier was ruled out and the case was submitted for voting.

Dance, S.P. 1986. *A history of shell collecting*. xv, 265 pp., 32 pls. Brill, Leiden.

Jeffreys, J.G. 1862. *British conchology* ..., vol. 1 (Land and freshwater shells). cxiv, 341 pp., 8 pls. Voorst, London.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1995 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 207. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1995 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 25: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin

Negative votes — none.

No votes were received from Ride and Uéno.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

nitens, *Helix*, Gmelin, [1791], *Caroli a Linné Systema Naturae*, Ed. 13, vol. 1, part 6, p. 3633.
nitens, *Helix*, Michaud, 1831, *Complément de l'histoire naturelle des mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles de la France*, de J.P.R. Draparnaud, p. 44.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Helix nitens* Michaud, 1831:

Forcart, L. 1959. *Archiv für Molluskenkunde*, 88(1–3): 24.